

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
January 15, 2019

Councilman Vice-President Duckwall – Present
Councilwoman Vice-President Chittum – Present
Councilman Donaldson – Present
Councilman Wood – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilman Sailors – Present
Councilman Nutt-Present

Vice-President Duckwall called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-President Duckwall welcomed Councilman Nutt to the council.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the December 11, 2018 minutes. Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice-President Duckwall turned the meeting over to Councilman Wiles for election of officers. Councilman Wiles opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Councilman Sailors made a motion to nominate Councilman Duckwall as Council President. Councilman Wood 2nd the motion and it passed 6-1 (Duckwall abstained).

Councilman Wiles turned the meeting back over to President Duckwall. President Duckwall opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Councilman Wood made a motion to nominate Councilwoman Chittum for Vice-President. Councilman Sailors made a motion to nominate Councilman Wiles. Nominations were closed and a vote was taken with Councilman Wiles, Councilman Nutt, Councilman Wood and Councilman Donaldson voting in favor of Councilwoman Chittum as the Vice-President. Councilman Sailors and Councilman Duckwall voting for Councilman Wiles. Councilwoman Chittum abstained from voting. President Duckwall declared Councilwoman Chittum duly elected as the Vice-President.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS

CEDIT

Jim Tidd, MCEDA Director came before the council to present a request for funding assistance for the Ivy Tech Kokomo Campus Expansion Project. Mr. Tidd explained that in years past, new business coming to the county would look for land and any incentives the county could provide before making a decision. Now, businesses look at the total community, including schools, amenities, hospitals, and looking for semi-skilled to skilled workforce. Mr. Tidd went on to explain that Ivy Tech received a \$40 million grant for expansion and upgrades to the Kokomo Campus, which will be used for 2 and 4-year degree and trade programs. Ivy Tech must raise \$3 million in matching funds and are reaching out to counties, towns, cities, etc. across the region to help in raising funds. Mr. Tidd presented a summary of how Ivy Tech currently affects the adults and High School students of Miami County. Currently, 354 students across all 3 county schools participate in dual credit classes. The dual credit courses reduce the number of classes students must take and of great benefit once they move on to college. Mr. Tidd noted that he presented the request to the Board of Commissioners at their meeting in December and they unanimously voted to approve him moving forward making the formal financial request to the council for consideration. Mr. Tidd explained that the entire \$43 million would go towards the improvements

at the Kokomo Campus, where many Miami County students attend. Most students take their basic courses locally and then transfer on to finish their degrees. Mr. Tidd went on to state that the financial contribution is a good use of economic development money and there is money available within the CEDIT fund to cover the request. Commissioner West noted that the contribution is an investment of approximately \$63 per student. Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$50,000 from CEDIT for the Ivy Tech Campus Expansion Project. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

2019 SALARY ORDINANCE UPDATE

Auditor Brown presented the 2019 salary ordinance for amendment. Auditor Brown explained that the council approved in December to move \$10,000.00 from Adult Probation to County General due to a shortfall in revenue. The change requires the council to amend the salary and budget ordinances for 2019. Auditor Brown noted that the council also needed to make the following changes as well:

- Change the verbiage under the Coroner from Autopsies to Deputy Coroner Call Outs
- Add the Administrative Assistant wages moved from Adult Probation to County General
- Correct a typographical error under the Reassessment Deputy in the Reassessment budget
- Correct the Adult Probation Admin budget to replace the removal of the Administrative Assistant moved to Adult Probation and add the supplemental wages for the Probation Officer paid from the grant
- Change the PTBOA Board Stipend to reflect the change to level 3 to \$175 and all other levels to \$150 per meeting
- Update the amount supplemented under Circuit Court for the Child Support Clerk from \$5,000 from Clerk Incentive to \$8,073.00

Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve the amendment to the 2019 Salary ordinance to reflect the changes above. Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE UPDATE

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2019 budget ordinance based on the changes of the 2019 salary ordinance. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Duckwall reviewed the committee appointments below:

Budget and Wage	3	Ralph Duckwall, David Sailors, Dick Wiles
Community Corrections	1	Richard Wood
County Plan Commission	1	Ralph Duckwall
Courthouse Security	1-2	Sandy Chittum, John Donaldson
Dukes Healthcare Foundation	2	Ralph Duckwall, Richard Wiles
E911	2	Richard Wiles, Richard Wood

Emergency Management Agency	1	John Donaldson
Historical Society	1	Sandy Chittum
IT Committee	1	Dave Sailors
Jail	2	David Sailors, Sandy Chittum
Local Coordinating Council	1	Richard Wood
MCEDA Elected Officials Council	1-2	Ralph Duckwall, Sandy Chittum
Miami County Chamber of Commerce	1	Sandy Chittum
Purdue Extension Advisory Board	1	John Donaldson
Regional Planning Council	1	Richard Wiles
Solid Waste District	1	David Sailors
Tax Abatement	3	Ralph Duckwall, Sandy Chittum, Brian Nutt
Peru Public Library	1	Sandy Chittum

Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve the committee appointments. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the appointment of Jamie Hopper to the Zoning Appeals Board. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the appointment of Steve Downs as the County Attorney for the council. Councilman Wood 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

Sheriff Tim Hunter came before the council to discuss the Courthouse Security position. Sheriff Hunter explained that he has had a difficult time finding someone to fill the position and the request he is presenting is the last option available. Sheriff Hunter stated that he has searched across Miami and surrounding counties and because of raises or matrixes in place most qualified individuals do not want to leave their jobs to come to work for the county. Sheriff Hunter explained that the applicant is Paul Daugherty and is currently an Indiana State Police Trooper set to retire, but has another job offer with the Federal Courts in Ft Wayne and the county would need to move quickly if they wanted to employ him. Sheriff Hunter went on to state that the Mr. Daugherty is very qualified, served on the Emergency Response Team (SWAT), serves as the Post Commander in Peru, highly trained, well known and liked and most important, meets the job

requirements with the mandate from the judges. Mr. Daugherty would like to stay in the Peru area, but cannot take the job for less than \$45,000 a year, which is a little over \$10,000 more than the current position pays now. Sheriff Hunter stated that he, Captain Vitek and Auditor Brown met and came up with a way to fund the position. Sheriff Hunter explained there are some expenses within the Public Safety budget that the Jail Commissary can easily pick up without any financial burden. Sheriff Hunter further noted that currently, he rotates Road Deputies in to cover security, but if that continued it would cost close to \$60,000 and the increase in the salary is more appealing. Sheriff Hunter stated that if the council approves the increase, it would still take about 3 weeks for Mr. Daugherty to fully separate from the State Police, but he would continue to supply deputies and pay the overtime. Sheriff Hunter also stated that Mr. Daugherty is willing to be the maintenance point of contact for the Courthouse and Annex buildings. Sheriff Hunter explained that he served in the Courthouse for 8 years and the staff treated him exceptionally well. It was a priority for him to not only find the right person that meets the qualifications of the mandate, but that would could do the job and get along with everyone. Captain Vitek noted that this is not a merit position and Mr. Daugherty is an academy certified and highly experienced officer. Captain Vitek went on to state that Mr. Daugherty's experience would be a great asset in coordinating, planning and implementing a totally secured building if the county were to move in that direction. Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve the support of hiring of Mr. Daugherty as Courthouse Security and to revise the salary ordinance at the February council meeting. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

Sheriff Hunter explained that at budget hearings, he came before the council regarding discussion about lowering the Sheriff salary for 2019. At that time, Sheriff Hunter offered to reduce the salary from \$94,573 to \$90,000 for 2019, with the stipulation that the \$4,573 would go to Molly Grant, 9-1-1 Director. Sheriff Hunter stated that Ms. Grant has been doing the work of the Director, but not receiving any compensation for it. Sheriff Hunter noted that at budget adoption, the council decided to wait to increase the salary of Ms. Grant until after the election, but did not reinstate the Sheriff salary back to the \$94,573. Sheriff Hunter went on to state that a few of the council members also had an issue with offering the increase to Ms. Grant because she would make more than the Jail Commander. Sheriff Hunter explained that he would still be willing to agree to the salary of \$90,000, but under the condition, the council split the difference between Ms. Grant and Jail Commander, Tiffany Hostetler. Sheriff Hunter further noted both employees manage the operations of the jail and 9-1-1 and deserve the compensation. If the council is not going to split the difference, then he wants the salary reinstated to \$94,573. Sheriff Hunter will only agree to the reduction in salary under that condition. Sheriff Hunter stated that he went before the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting and they gave approval for him to bring the request to the council, giving Ms. Grant and Ms. Hostetler an additional \$2,285 towards their annual salary. The council will take final action and amend the salary ordinance to reflect the change in the salaries for the 9-1-1 Director and Jail Commander at their February meeting. The change will be retroactive to January 1, 2019.

Sheriff Hunter shared that he would like to see a larger gap in salaries between the Jail Commander, Assistant Jail Commander and the Supervisors. While he feels the jail bonus program is a nice gesture, these positions are considered administrative and do not qualify to earn the bonuses. Sheriff Hunter also feels that if the jail bonus program stopped because of a drop in housing out of county inmates, it could be a difficult pill to swallow for the employees to lose that extra money. Sheriff Hunter has a different, more permanent solution he would like to present down the road. Sheriff Hunter explained he does not want the money the county earns from housing the inmates and the jail bonus program overshadow his top priority, which is the safety of his employees and the inmates.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT LETTERS

Ken Einselen, Highway Engineer came before the council to present new letters of financial commitment for the Community Crossings Grant. Mr. Einselen stated that former Council President Ethan Manning signed the letters and he would like to update them to reflect Council President Ralph Duckwall. Mr. Einselen went on to explain that Miami County did not receive any

grant money in 2018. For 2019, he can apply in January and June and it would be for the 75% / 25% match. Mr. Einselen further noted that state used to allow applications for projects retroactively, but they are no longer offering that in the grant process. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to authorize President Duckwall to sign the letters of commitment for the Community Crossings Grant application. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Councilman Wood would like to have Jim Tidd come in and present an update on the status of the shell building to the council. Councilman Wood is concerned about the money the county will have to pay if the building does not sell and does not feel that the council receives any regular updates. Commissioner West stated that when the General Tire (1st shell building) was built, it brought new industries to Miami County. President Duckwall noted that because of the initial shell building not only did it bring in new companies, but also it brought additional activity to the county.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Duckwall welcomed Steve Downs as the county attorney. Mr. Downs appreciates the opportunity to serve Miami County.

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Brown
Miami County Auditor